

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission**

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**ITEM**

**11**

**DECISION**

**TOPIC**

**Culture Resource Investigation Retainer Contract**

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Federal law (National Environmental Policy Act) requires the State of Iowa to conduct cultural resource investigations at proposed construction sites so cultural resources are not significantly affected. To comply with Federal law the DNR has entered into a retainer contract with a private consultant since 1992. This type of contract gives DNR staff the flexibility and ability to have cultural resource investigations conducted, as needed, in an effective and time saving manner. Fisheries, Wildlife, Parks, and Forestry bureaus have utilized past contracts to assure their bureau projects do not affect cultural resources. The contract has a \$50,000 ceiling.

Contract duration is for one year and may be renewed annually for a maximum of five years. It is based on a hourly rate for a principal investigator and a hourly rate for employees. Hourly rates include all expenses (lodging, meals, equipment, etc.) incurred by the contractor to conduct an investigation.

Bid proposals were solicited from three consulting firms. A bid proposal notice was published in the Des Moines Register on January 7, 2007. Two proposals were received. The Conservation and Recreation Division recommends the Natural Resource Commission accept the low bid from Consulting Archaeological Services. Consulting Archaeological Services has held the retainer contract for the past six years with an excellent performance record.

| Consultant                         | Principal Investigator<br>Rate | Employee Rate |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Consulting Archaeological Services | \$26.50                        | \$20.50       |
|                                    |                                |               |
| Wapsi Valley Archaeology           | \$36.10                        | \$31.53       |

Kenneth Herring, Administrator  
Conservation and Recreation Division

March 8, 2007